

AMENDMENT A
(37 C.F.R. 1.111)

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1-3 and 15-18 in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.121. A marked-up version of the amended claims is attached herein on separate sheets and a clean version of the amended claims is also attached herein on separate sheets.

Please cancel Claim 8 without disclaimer to its content and without prejudice to its subsequent reintroduction into this or a future patent application. Claim 8 is being canceled as it is dependent on withdrawn Claims 6 or 7.

REMARKS

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §1.111, reconsideration of the instant application, as amended herewith, is respectfully requested. Entry of the amendment is requested.

Claims 1-5 and 15-18 are presently pending before the Office, with claim 8 being canceled herein and the remaining claims being withdrawn due to the restriction requirement. In fact, claim 8 should have been included the originally withdrawn claims. Applicants have amended the claims. No new matter has been added. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. Applicants are not intending in any manner to narrow the scope of the originally filed claims.

The Examiner's Action mailed November 11, 2003 (Paper No. 7) and the references cited therein have been carefully studied by Applicants and the undersigned counsel. The amendments appearing herein and these explanatory remarks are believed to be fully responsive to the Action. Accordingly, this important patent application is believed to be in condition for allowance.